

REMARKS

The Election of Species Requirement that was mailed on January 29, 2003, has been received and reviewed.

Five species of invention have been identified:

Species I: Depicted in FIG. 3;
Species II: Depicted in FIG. 4;
Species III: Depicted in FIG. 5;
Species IV: Depicted in FIG. 6; and
Species V: Depicted in FIG. 7A.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of species II, shown in FIG. 4.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 40, 41, 43-48, 49, 50, and 52-54 reads on the subject matter of Species II. It is also submitted that independent claim 17 is the most generic of these claims.

It is further submitted that claims 1, 2, 6-10, 13-16, 17, 18, 40, 45-48, 49, 50, and 52 read on and, thus, are generic to each of species I, II, III, IV, and V.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 40, 41, 43-48, 49, 50, and 52-54 be considered on the merits at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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